point 3

JUNE 2003

The magazine of TOC H

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We've moved!

Central Services has moved.

See the back page for our new address and contact details.

STOP PRESS

New patron : Archbishop Rowan Williams has agreed to be the new patron of Toc H. He will succeed Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother who was patron for over 60 years.

Lottery grant : Toc H has been awarded £300,000 by the Lottery Fund for its mentoring work in Cheshire.

News in brief

Ducks help out

How long does it take thousands of yellow plastic ducks to "swim" three quarters of a mile along the River Mersey?

Forty five minutes for the "winner". But the real winner of a Toc H organised duck race in May was the fund which is helping Toc H member Jeff Burn walk again after he suffered a punctured lung and broken neck in a freak accident in a rugby scrum.

Sixty-year-old Jeff is the oldest member of the Didsbury Toc H rugby club, where team mates are raising money towards his wife Anne's travelling expenses to and from a Southport hospital. They were hoping to have 3,500 ducks, sponsored at £1 each, but ended up raising £5,000, which will also help to pay for some alterations to Jeff's home.

How's about that then?

Sir Jimmy Savile accepted an invitation to a disco in Hertfordshire, organised by the Lea Valley branch. About 50 special-needs adults, along with 12 Toc H volunteers, were expected to join the fun at the end of May.

Our front page picture...

Children in Poperinge enjoy the annual carnival which a party of Toc H members attend. The photograph was taken by Steve Smith of Lea Valley.

Contact us

Point 3 Editor is Sue Coffey who can be contacted via Central Services or emailed at info@zymo.co.uk, tel 01274 841402. The next deadline is September 18th 2003.

The opinions expressed in this issue are not necessarily those of Toc H, and the Editor reserves the right to cut articles and letters.

Welcome to our new members

Caring people from many regions of the country and of a whole range of ages and backgrounds have been welcomed to membership of Toc H.

Among them are 28-year-old Rachel Jones of Sheffield and husband-and-wife William and Mavis Saunders of Buckingham. Retired farmer William, 73, and Mavis, 72, live near the Toc H Buckingham premises and hope to become more involved in the organisation's work.

Rachel, a management development officer, first became involved with Toc H as a student at Sheffield University and has helped with residential programmes for the past six years.

Other new members are:

Alice May Cann
South West

Mette Ofstad
South East

Jo Illingworth
East of England

Donald Robert Clulow
East Midlands

Geoffrey Michael Cooper
North West

Sarah Jones
South East

Heather Dawson
North East

Rachel Edwards
West Midlands

Molly Doreen Titshall
South East

Kay Harding
East of England

Philip Christopher O'Shea
West Midlands

Jo Dawson
London

Edith Joan Hale
South West

We welcome news and pictures from new members. Contact Sue Coffey via Central Services or email at info@zymo.co.uk.
Tel: 01274 841402

New premises are a real treat!

Over the last few months members of Cosby branch have been busy putting the finishing touches to the newly revamped Cosby building, as it opens its doors to the public again after an £87,000 makeover.

The former Second World War air raid shelter, which was built in 1943 to protect workers at a nearby factory from attack, received funding from a variety of sources including the National Lottery Community Fund and Cosby Parish Council, to help local members continue and develop their work in the local community. Residents and members also helped in the fundraising effort through events such as coffee mornings.

The money, which was gathered over the last two years, has been used to give the building a new roof and kitchen as well as providing access ramps and toilets for disabled users.

Toc H has been using the Cosby building, on Croft Road, since 1952, when local villagers bought it for £300.

The Chairman of the Life-Saving Association in Cosby, has already won grants to run courses in the building, and it is hoped that this will attract more interest from local residents.

Cosby Toc H is keen to hear from anyone who wants to join or use the building for meetings. More details are available from Eric Crich on 0116 2863939.

On the road – again!

Director Geoff Smith, third left, at the regional meeting for the North in Bradford

This spring I have visited each of the new regions, as well as Scotland.

This is a summary of my presentation at these meetings.

Toc H has been a social capital organisation for 85 years. Its distinctive role in the 20th century has been to promote co-operation between classes.

In the 21st century it promotes "co-operation between communities" - co-operation which recognises and celebrates diversity in a globalising world.

Toc H is now governed by a National Management Committee elected by the wider membership. In England there will be nine regions with co-ordinators working to a job description. In Wales and Scotland there will be national committees.

Toc H programmes are being developed in five key areas:

Participation is a virtual recreation of the original Talbot House. By visiting the website members will be part of a virtual volunteering community.

VOL:*tag* is made up of several different approaches to community volunteering, through branches, connected groups, "Working Together" events and the new "developing people" programme.

The residential volunteer programme: *in***TO***u***CH** - the national Toc H community programme - is professionally led and usually externally funded. It works in partnership with local communities.

Geoff Smith receives the Investors in People award from TV presenter and sports personality Penny Mallory

Talbot Centres provide a network of urban and rural residential and non-residential centres designed to support community action through hospitality and local development initiatives.

Toc H Chances Consulting continues the Toc H tradition by offering support to the wider charitable sector.

Toc H is a worldwide movement with a good deal of international activity though projects and separate national organisations who together form Toc H international.

Geoffrey Smith *June 2003*

Emphasis is on Welsh identity

Re-establishing Toc H identity in Wales is the aim of Toc H Cymru this year. They will also be raising their own profile as a vibrant and innovative member of current voluntary sector partners in Wales.

A Toc H Cymru Development Committee (TCDC) has been formed and will approve annual objectives and action plans drafted by the Toc H Cymru Director.

The intention is to raise the profile of Toc H Cymru through contact with the National Assembly for Wales, unitary authorities, statutory and voluntary organisations, religious and community groups and the media.

A conference to be held in mid-Wales will raise the awareness of Toc H in Wales. Development officers for North Wales and South Wales are now in place.

Forty years and counting

A local Toc H group is marking a very special anniversary by giving children a chance to try out a range of exciting activities.

Birmingham Outward Group, affectionately known as BOG, was set up 40 years ago to give disabled and inner-city children an opportunity to visit the countryside and take part in outdoor pursuits. The group is now inviting 40 children between the ages of 8 and 14 from the Birmingham area to enjoy a day of rock climbing, skiing, toboganning, and canoeing. The event, at the Ackers Outdoor Activity Centre, Golden Hillock Road, Small Heath, Birmingham on Saturday 21st June, from 10am to 5pm, will also include a barbeque lunch for the lucky participants.

Derek Ridgway, who has been involved with BOG since its early days, said: "We have quite a turnover of volunteers. We would love to welcome back as many of them as possible. It would help to make it a day to remember."

Kate questions a community

Since Kate Green took up her new appointment in Bradford in March she has already demonstrated just how effective Toc H can be in helping communities change for the better, and how individuals can make a difference.

Twenty-three-year-old Kate, and six volunteer helpers, spent a week going door-to-door in the city's Bowling area with the Toc H Community Wish Survey. They also put up notices and held a discussion group.

By the end of the week Kate had received hundreds of replies from people who had suggestions about how to make their environment safer and more pleasant to live in. Four key themes emerged – policing and crime reduction; tackling drugs; tackling litter; and a perceived lack of activities for children and young people.

Kate said: "The feedback was tremendous. Initially some people were reluctant to tell us their views, but once people knew who we were and what we were trying to achieve for the area, they were happy to become involved."

And already action is being taken on people's concerns. A police crime prevention day is being planned, and Bradford City Council has approached Kate with a view to having a joint, community-led environment initiative in the autumn.

Kate, who lives in Halifax, is an art and design graduate of Bradford University. Now with Toc H, she is a part-time research and outreach worker, based in Bradford. Previously she worked as a volunteer with young children, refugees and asylum seekers.

Kate Green with a backdrop of bluebells in a garden which Toc H plans to clear and tidy as a community project involving asylum seekers

She said: "I am very enthusiastic about the challenges of the job and I am confident that we can have a positive impact on the communities we serve. I look forward to continuing our work with the people in those communities."

One of the volunteers helping Kate was Johan Claus, a Belgian teacher, who hitch-hiked from Bruges to Bradford, especially to help, after reading about the community survey on the Toc H website.

Obituaries

Mr James Beveridge
Denny

Rev Douglas Bridge-Collyns
Orston

Mr Alan J Clarkson
Stockport

Mrs Phyllis Coutts
London District Branch

Mr Percy English
Harpenden

Mr Kenneth B Gibson
North West

Mr Eric L F Holburn
South East

Mrs Margarita McGee
Wyre Forest

Mrs James B Murphy
Llandrindod Wells

Mrs Cynthia Ratcliffe
Bramley

Mrs Ethel Smith
Cambridge

Mr John Wilkinson
Mansfield Woodhouse

Mrs Freda Wright
Mansfield Woodhouse

A cheque for Jacques

Jacques Ryckebosch from Talbot House was the guest speaker at Dunstable Tangent Open Evening, where he joined Penny Gibbs (National President of Tangent Clubs UK), Ruth Lyddiard (Chairman of Dunstable Tangent) and 70 other ladies. Ruth presented him with a cheque for £250 for the Talbot House Association.

New members on your National Management Committee

Pam Elliott, Richard Lowe and Terry Drummond have been elected unopposed to three vacant positions on the NMC. Just three nominations were received for the three vacancies on the committee by the closing date of 9th May. Harry Graham resigned from the NMC as from April 2003.

Pam Elliott of Wetherby, West Yorkshire, has spent a year on the National Executive Committee. She says: "I am eager to be part of the way forward of this wonderful movement. I am totally committed to the aims of Toc H, developing lasting friendships, giving service, and the discovery of faith. Through my work in Social Services, I have been involved with the more disadvantaged members of society and as a member I have continued this work."

Richard Lowe, of Limpley Stoke, Bath, was closely involved with Toc H projects in their early days, serving as a project leader on many occasions and organising projects. He was co-opted onto the NMC in 2002/3 and says: "I feel I still have much to contribute under the new form of governance."

Terry Drummond, of Croydon, is also a co-opted NMC member. He says: "I believe Toc H is entering a period of exciting and radical change, building on its history and work. The future holds challenges that, with a committed staff and membership, can help in the building and support of strong communities."